

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments.

Claims 2, 7-12, 16, 25, 28, and 31 were indicated as including allowable subject matter. By this amendment, claim 2 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 1; claim 30 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 31; and claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 17-20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, and 31-33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein.

It is submitted that all of the pending claims, i.e., claims 2, 7-12, 16, 25, 28, and 30 are allowable at least for the reasons for allowance by the Examiner of claims 2 and 31.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975, with the EXCEPTION of deficiencies in fees for multiple dependent claims in new applications.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoichi HIDA et al.

/Jeffrey R. Filipek/

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